

MAY 2025

Next League Meeting

Wed. June 4

6:30 pm at the hall

THE MCKERNAN MESSENGER

Since
1954

A publication of the McKernan Community League

Circulation 1,100

Charles Simmonds Park Grand Opening

Sunday, June 1

1 to 4:30 p.m.

115 St. and 79 Ave.

The Charles Simmonds Park upgrade is now complete! New playground equipment is in, paths and benches have been set, and the park is ready to welcome all. Come out for its grand opening ceremony where you can enjoy free snacks plus face painting, games and bouncy castle for the kids. Thanks to our many park volunteers who made this renewal possible!

If you can help out at the event, contact Gail at gfs@shaw.ca.



Large concrete blocks now close off the access to an illegal parking lot on 114 St.

Illegal parking lot shut down

A large vacant lot at the southeast corner of 114 St. and University Ave. has ceased to be used as an illegal parking lot.

Large concrete dividers have been placed around all access points to the lot, although the lot itself is still full of tracks and packed mud.

The parking lot seems to have been used by residents of nearby buildings, and possibly by people seeking closer access to the U of A campus. It contributed to additional traffic on McKernan streets, and the exits directly on 114 St. and on University Ave., which were not city approved, crossed busy sidewalks and posed a danger to pedestrians.

Parking lots can only operate with a development permit. Edmonton has long had a problem with illegal lots, especially downtown. The need for parking has to be balanced against needs for housing and liveable, dynamic neighbourhoods.

While a site-specific (DC2) development was approved in 2019, the developer did not end up completing the project. It was automatically rezoned to RM h23 under the new Zoning Bylaw, which would allow a standard building up to six storeys. Hopefully another developer will soon take an interest in developing this prime site.



Pocket Park Plant-in
Thursday, May 22
6:30 p.m.

Help us get our Pocket Park at 112 St. and University Ave. ready for the season! All help welcomed, novice gardener to expert. Bring a shovel!

SUMMER GARDEN HELPER WANTED (paid position)
see page 6 for details

Community Contacts

PRESIDENT	Alison Stephens	president@mckernancommunity.org
VICE-PRESIDENT	Shawn Parchoma	vicepresident@mckernancommunity.org
SECRETARY	Ingrid Poulin	secretary@mckernancommunity.org
TREASURER	Rita Bakshi	treasurer@mckernancommunity.org
DIRECTORS	Rolinda Graham	director1@mckernancommunity.org
	Milap Petigara	director2@mckernancommunity.org
	BJ Serink	director3@mckernancommunity.org
	Roberta Franchuk	director4@mckernancommunity.org
PAST PRESIDENT	Phil Kloc	pastpresident@mckernancommunity.org
TRANSPORTATION	Ingrid and Tom Poulin	
HOUSING ISSUES	Housing committee	development@mckernancommunity.org
PLAYGROUP	---vacant---	
SCHOOL LIAISON	---vacant---	
SOCCER - Adult	Brad Odsen	bodsen@telusplanet.net
SOCCER - Youth	Mike Blennerhassett	
	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca	
	emsasouthwest.com	
CRICKET	C. Marathalingam	780-438-0460
	www.ascacricicket.com	
SKATING RINK	---vacant---	
CASINO CHAIR	---vacant---	
HISTORIAN	Nancy Corrigan	nancycorrigan96@gmail.com
POCKET PARK	Laura Querengesser	pocketpark@mckernancommunity.org
SOUTH CAMPUS	Wiggert Hessels	

League Memberships

Memberships in your community league support programs, socials, hall activities, newsletters, and more; PLUS the League is looking out for your interests in housing, transportation, services and more. See the membership form at www.mckernancommunity.org.

MEMBERSHIPS Rob Hamilton memberships@mckernancommunity.org

McKernan Messenger

The McKernan Messenger is published ten times per year.

Advertising deadline: 1st of the month.

NEWSLETTER Roberta Franchuk-
CONTENT messenger@mckernancommunity.org
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www.mckernancommunity.org

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City of Edmonton

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COMMUNITY Scott Grevlund scott.grevlund@edmonton.ca
SERVICES

See the latest news at

www.mckernancommunity.org,

or follow us on Facebook or Instagram!



RENT THE McKERNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE!

The community centre, located at 11341-78 Avenue, is open again! Our facility includes smaller meeting spaces along with a main hall complete with danceable wooden floor and air conditioning. More information about the hall and how to rent it is available at www.mckernancommunity.org. For bookings, contact the manager at hall@mckernancommunity.org.

	Main Hall	Meeting Room
Capacity	150	60
Hourly Rate (GST will be added)		
Weekend (Fri evening, Sat, Sun)	\$65/hr	\$55/hr
Weekday (day and evening)	\$45/hr	\$35/hr
Long-Term Rentals (multi-week, with contract)	\$40/hr	\$30/hr

Residents of McKernan who are members of the community league receive a 15% discount on one-time hall rentals. GST will also be charged on rentals. Damage deposit will also be required, and renters must obtain their own event insurance.

Community event calendar

Presented by the McKernan Community League and/or other community partners.

EVENT	Location	Date/Time
Pocket Park Plant-in	112 St. and University Ave.	Thursday May 22 6:30 p.m.
Smashin' for Compassion	Pickleball courts across Edmonton	May 25 to June 8
Charles Simmonds Park Grand Opening	Charles Simmonds Park (7830-115 St.)	Sunday, June 1 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Free Swim	Confederation Pool (league membership required)	Sundays 4 - 5:30 p.m.

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AGM brings new VP and free memberships

One new board member, free memberships for next year, and updated bylaws were some the results of the league's Annual General Meeting on April 23.

Shawn Parchoma was elected as vice-president. Shawn moved to McKernan in late 2023 with his partner. He enjoys attending community events and festivals around the city throughout the year. Shawn is currently Vice Chair of the Board for GEF Seniors Housing and previously served on the Board of Edmonton's Food Bank for six years.

Thank you to Judy Ross for her past service in this role.

President Alison Stephens was re-elected for a two-year term, along with directors Bj Serink and Rolinda Graham. Other board positions are up for re-election in 2026.

A motion to offer league memberships at no cost for the 2025-26 year was passed. These will be available later this summer. This initiative was taken on because the league is now in the comfortable position of having paid off all its financial obligations on the hall. Several administrative bylaw changes were also accepted.

The event wrapped up, as usual, with a wine and cheese mixer welcoming new members and old friends.

Green shack is coming back: kids needed!

The McKernan Park Green Shack will be back at McKernan Park (112 St. and 76 Ave.) this summer - but we need lots of kids to keep the program running!

The city has notified communities that "an average attendance of 5 participants/hour must be maintained" if the program is to come back in future years. So if you have kids aged 6 to 12, encourage them to drop in! Children under 6 may also participate, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Green Shack leaders are on hand as kids experience a variety of crafts, games, sports, and free play. It's a great way to get active and make new friends in the community.

Operating hours will be announced by June.

Borrow cool stuff at the Tool Library

Need a power tool but don't want to buy it for one project? Try the Tool Library!

The McKernan Community League is now a sponsor of the Edmonton Tool Library for 2025-26. This means that all Community League members can become members of the library for free, and get access to the hand, power, and garden tools available to borrow at the library.

The Tool Library is hosted at the Bellevue Community Hall (north entrance) at 7308 112 Avenue NW (southeast corner of Borden Park). Tools available include hedge trimmers, mitre saws, staple guns, shop vacs, sewing machines, automotive jacks and much more.

Summer hours are Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed on Saturdays of stat holiday weekends). Bring your league membership and ID to get your free membership. Check edmontontoollibrary.weebly.com for up-to-date calendar and tool list. The library is also looking for volunteers and tool donations.



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Development Applications

Apr. 1 to May 7, 2025

The list below covers permits that have been applied for in McKernan. Permits are under review unless otherwise noted. Complete information, including permit number and the name of the applicant, is available at the City of Edmonton mapping website maps.edmonton.ca > Development Applications; or in more detail at the Open Data Portal (data.edmonton.ca and search for Development Permits Map view).

Requested and approved planning applications (i.e. for rezoning, not development) are listed at https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/planning-applications. If you have any questions about a project, contact development@mckernancommunity.org.

10950 - 73 Ave.	To construct interior alterations to a residential use building (basement development, not to be used as an additional dwelling). (1 bedroom, 1 storage room, 1 kitchen, 1 bathroom, 1 dining room/office, 1 living room)
7330 - 113 St.	To demolish a school building (St Peter Centre)
11217 - 75 Ave.	To construct interior alterations (basement development, not to be used as an additional dwelling).
11119 - 77 Ave.	To construct interior alterations (basement development, not to be used as an additional dwelling).
11503 - 78 Ave.	To install a renewable energy device on a house (17 solar photovoltaic panel(s) on the roof) and on an accessory building, garage (11 solar photovoltaic panel(s) on the roof).
7805 - 114 St.	To demolish a single detached house and attached garage .
11260 - 79 Ave.	To construct interior alterations (basement development, not to be used as an additional dwelling).
11532 - 80 Ave.	Construction of (a) new building(s), demolition

Bylaw amendment suggested to limit upzonings

Councillor Michael Janz has asked that the City amend its Zoning Bylaw to limit the upzoning of lot outside of District Plans / nodes and corridors. This comes in response to a burst of rezoning applications from a handful of developers to such sites, which are currently allowed under the District Plan. These rezoning applications, many of which have been made in McKernan, Belgravia, Garneau and other central communities, have put unexpected pressure on our communities and the city.

Janz suggests that this change to limit this higher density could help "address some of the concerns related to development proposals outside of the areas where we want to focus our growth."

Janz's request read:

That Administration prepare amendments to District Policy, Bylaw 24000, Section 2.5 (Land use) and/or the Zoning Bylaw, Bylaw 20001, to limit opportunities and review the General Purpose for the RSM - Small-Medium Scale Transition Zone outside of nodes and corridors and return to a future Public Hearing. Due Date: June 30, 2025, City Council Public Hearing

If the amendment passes the public hearing, developers could still apply for rezoning to RSM, but such applications would not be supported by administration. This would make it more difficult — but not impossible — to pass at city council. This should

encourage increased density along the nodes and corridors, while somewhat reducing the pressure on interior sites within communities.

While this amendment is under consideration, some rezoning applications will be paused until a decision is made.

A related issue that has come up in McKernan is developers asking for rezonings for properties that are already in the process of being redeveloped to higher density (for example, where a four-plex is under construction). This could allow the developer to add extra site coverage for more buildings: while the RS zone only allows 45% site coverage, the RSM zone allows for 60%. This would permit an additional building such as a garage. It's important to note that even if the RSM rezoning is approved, the developer would need additional development permits to build to meet the zoning requirements.



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McKernan's homesites

Mr. and Mrs. McKernan lived in a log cabin as other homes resided there as well. on the N.W. and S.E. corners of the lake. According to an Edmonton Journal article, Jan. 15, 1913, 'the lake is in the city within easy reach of every quarter; a car line is built directly, by its northern shore, and will be in operation within a very short time.' So, in the April 2025 newsletter it was mentioned that the trolley stopped operation in 1948. 'The lake property was purchased by city of Edmonton bonds. There were many arguments in favor of the purchase. In this article there were ongoing matters discussed about the lake's adaptability to summer amusements.' Jumping forward in time to 2025, many new homes are being built at an escalating speed. Yet after the lake was sold to the city, then drained to allow for inexpensive lots and houses, many homes were built in the 1940s which are in 2025 quickly being demolished for yet another changing house scape.

Nancy Corrigan
McKernan Historian

Pickleball for Compassion House

Attention pickleball players: you can join the Smashin' for Compassion fundraising event to help Sorrentino's Compassion House provide affordable and supportive care to women who have to travel to Edmonton for cancer care. They are encouraging pickleball players or teams to sign up, set fundraising goals, and collect donations for Compassion House from May 25 to June 8. Every game during that time helps support the women who rely on Sorrentino's Compassion House to provide affordable and supportive care. See smashinforcompassion.com for details and a list of pickleball courts across the city.



Easter Egg-citement

The Easter Bunny brought some magic to McKernan on April 19. Kids and parents were treated to a magic show with Donovan Day, which was followed by a mad egg scramble by dozens of kids through the rink (for the littlest ones) and the area around Gowan Park and the hall. Eggs were swept up like magic, and a few lucky kids found Golden Tickets that netted them extra prizes.

Thanks to event coordinator BJ Serink for organizing, and to his band of hoppy helpers!

SUMMER DRAMA CAMP

For Kids aged 6-13

CLASSES RUN:
August 18th - 22nd and
August 25th - 29th
12:30 - 3:30 PM

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Big win for the Big Bin

Dozens of McKernan residents drove, walked, rolled and/or dragged their household garbage to our annual Big Bin event on April 27. We collected two large dumpsters of sofas, old toys, lawn furniture, pingpong tables, filing cabinets, construction debris, tree trimmings and more.

A special thank you to those folks who not only brought in their own junk, but who made special trips to clean up other parts of the community. Also thanks to the community volunteers who helped organize and supervise the day, keeping the bins compact and everyone safe.

If you missed this event and still have "stuff" to get rid of, you can take it to a City of Edmonton Ecostation free of charge during one of their Big Bin events (see www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/garbage_waste/big-bin-events for schedule); otherwise a small charge may apply.

If you have items that might have a good second use, consider taking them to the Reuse Centre (also collected at the Ecostations); see www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/garbage_waste/reuse-centre for a list of accepted items.

Yard waste collection

Extra yard waste will be collected on Monday, June 9 in McKernan. Set out your yard waste in double-ply paper bags or see-through plastic bags by 7 a.m. Bags should weigh less than 20 kg. Materials over 0.3 m need to be tied in bundles and placed beside your yard waste bags. For more info, visit edmonton.ca/YardWaste.

Summer garden helper needed (casual part-time)

The League is looking for someone with a strong back to help out a few hours a week with tasks at the Pocket Park (112 St. and University Ave.) and around the community hall.

Duties include preparing planting beds and adding soil/compost, pruning, mowing and other projects.

This would be a great position for a young person looking for casual work, but anyone is welcome who can handle strenuous tasks like shovelling.

You would work under the supervision of the Pocket Park team, but self-starters are definitely welcome. Hours would vary over the summer but would work out to approximately 2-4 hours per week. Flexibility depends on your need for supervision, but work time would likely be Thursday evenings to begin with. Pay rate to be determined.

Gardening experience is not required but is a big bonus.

Contact pocketpark@mckernancommunity.org if you're interested in this position. Deadline to apply is Sunday, May 25.

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